

REMARKS

Indication that claims 1-3, 5, 9-20 and 39 are allowed is appreciated.

In this Response, no claims are amended. Claims 1-3, 5 and 9-39 are pending in the present application; however, claims 21-37 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks made herein.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,116, issued to *Ohta et al.* (hereinafter "*Ohta*"), for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Final Office Action.

With respect to claim 38, Applicants respectfully submit that *Ohta* does not teach or suggest "wherein an outermost electrode of the first pixel electrode, the pixel signal line and an outermost electrode of the second pixel electrode join together to form a trapezoid shape."

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner concedes that "*Ohta et al.* [Figure 21] failed to disclose that an outermost electrode of the first pixel electrode, the pixel signal line and an outermost electrode of the second pixel electrode join together to form a trapezoid shape." However, the Examiner asserts that "in another embodiment as shown in Figure 7 and described in Column 21 lines 1-25," *Ohta* discloses "that the first pixel electrode and the second pixel electrode can be formed such that they tilt in opposite directions with respect to the pixel signal line, thus resulting in a trapezoid shape formed between the first and second pixel electrodes and the pixel signal line."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and note that Figure 7 does not show a trapezoid shape. Moreover, Applicants submit that the cited passage in *Ohta* does not teach or suggest a trapezoid shape formed between the first and second pixel electrodes and the pixel signal line.

With regard to Figure 7, as described in *Ohta* (col. 21, lines 2-8), the figure shows two pixel electrodes (PX) that are tilted inside an opening region of light shielding film

(BM) and formed into a *V shape*, and three counter electrodes (CT) that form a *comb tooth shape* protruding upward from a counter voltage signal line (CL), so that a region between the two pixel electrodes (PX) and three counter electrodes (CT) is divided into four parts.

With regard to the cited passage in *Ohta* at column 21, lines 1-25, it discloses that three counter electrodes (CT), which form a *comb tooth shape*, are parallel with the rubbing directions of orientation films, i.e., "an initial orientation direction (RDR)", and that two pixel electrodes (PX), which form a *V shape*, are tilted from the initial orientation direction, and that initial orientation angles near facing sides of the pixel electrodes (PX) are set so that the driving directions of liquid crystal molecules are fixed.

Applicants respectfully note that a *trapezoid* is a shape with *four* sides, which has a pair of parallel sides. Thus, the *V shape* formed by the two pixel electrodes (PX) and the *comb tooth shape* formed by the three counter electrodes (CT), as shown in Figure 7, clearly do not teach or suggest a *trapezoid*. In other words, the three-sided shapes disclosed in *Ohta* do not suggest a four-sided shape having a pair of parallel sides.

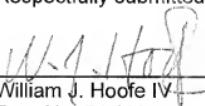
Thus, *Ohta* does not teach or suggest "wherein an outermost electrode of the first pixel electrode, the pixel signal line and an outermost electrode of the second pixel electrode join together to form a trapezoid shape," as recited in claim 38. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, claim 38 is patentable and non-obvious over *Ohta*.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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